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THE RELIA

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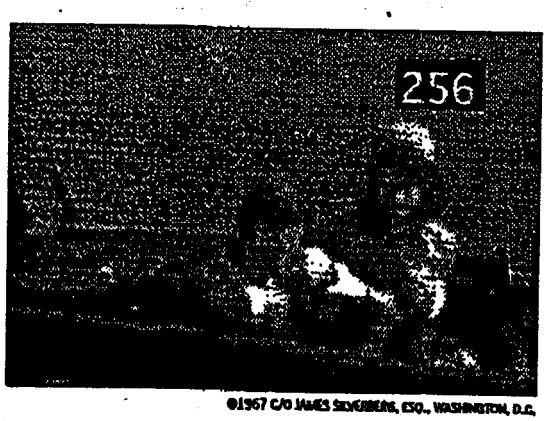
Appraising 26 Seconds of Horror

■ Washington tax attorney **Henry Zapruder** was a young lawyer at the Justice Department on Nov. 22, 1963, when his father, **Abraham**, called from Dallas. "They've killed the president," sobbed Abe Zapruder, a Dallas sportswear manufacturer. "No, Dad, he's alive, they've taken him to Parkland [Hospital] emergency," Henry said. "He's dead!" the elder Zapruder insisted. "I've seen him through the camera."

Almost 36 years later, the 26-second Zapruder film of the assassination of **John F. Kennedy** is an astonishing historical relic and a mixed blessing for Abe's heirs. As early as today, a special arbitration panel will announce how much the government will pay for the film—anywhere from $1 million to $30 million. But Henry, 61, who has retained **Bob Bennett**, says that despite nearly $1 million in payments for use of the film over the years—including cash from **Oliver Stone** for the movie "JFK"—his family has spent a bundle on legal and administrative costs while suffering criticism for alleged profiteering. The film has been available gratis to historians. "We decided early in this matter that we would be guided by our own views of right and wrong," Henry Zapruder said.

BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Henry Zapruder, film's caretaker.



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The Kennedy assassination captured on film.

Hitchens, offering to retract.

■ Feuding Democratic media consultants **Carter Eskew** and **B Squier** are talking again, sort of, on orders from **Vice President Gore**. The two ex-partners hadn spoken since their bitter falling-out seven years ago, whe Eskew fled Squier's firm to star his own venture. But a week ag Gore recruited Eskew to work with Squier on his troubled presidential campaign, and last Friday the two traded bright ideas. Okay, so they weren't in the same city (Eskew was in Washington, D.C., and Squier was in Washington state). But

DOONESBURY By GARRY TRUDEAU